



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: February 9, 2006

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chair Harvey Klein called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. Dave Speis (Accutest) made a motion to accept the January meeting minutes and the minutes were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated renewal applications will be mailed March 1st. New parameters will be listed on a separate sheet.

PT program: Rachel Werner stated the drinking water study closes at midnight on 2/23. The A2LA audit of ERM went well, results will be posted on the webpage. 8 standards companies applied to A2LA for certification under NELAC. The S&HW failure letters were mailed. Invoices for make-up studies and 2nd NELAC studies were combined. Call Rachel (609-777-1749) with any questions. Wastewater results will be out soon.

NELAC/INELA Update: Dave Speis reported NELAC will divest from the EPA and now have private sector input. The committee comments for the INELA interim draft standards regarding rewriting the accreditation process are due by ----.

NJQL's: Dave Speis (Accutest) reported for the ELAC subcommittee. A proposal was submitted to the committee for comments (see attached). The proposal recommends that the NJQLs not be accepted as written and that changes are needed. Terri McIntyre (Merck) expressed her concerns regarding linking NJQLs to accreditation. Dave Speis (Accutest) stated the older municipal labs would be particularly hard hit by the current approach. Gary Czock (NJDEP-SRI) stated the need for NJQLs for the GWQS and NJCC. Dave Speis moved that the committee vote on submitting the proposal to NJDEP OQA. Phil Worby (QC Labs) seconded. The motion was passed.

Bioassay: No report

Sludge (Biosolids): Anthony Pilawski (DEP BPR) summarized the new rule:
Increased reporting for industrial facilities producing Non-Hazardous sludge.
A TCDD scan will not be needed for domestic generators unless specified by the DEP.

Communications and OQA Website: No Report

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: John Shevlin (NJDEP-BSDW) reporting for Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) stated:

Correction to January minutes stating labs need EPA approval to run perchlorate. This is only for perchlorate samples that are being analyzed as part of the UCMR Rule. Perchlorate compliance samples for NJ water systems can only be analyzed by labs with certification by OQA for perchlorate.

Large surface water systems and surface water systems that sell water to large systems will have to start monitoring for Cryptosporidium in October as part of the Long Term 2 Surface Water Treatment Rule or LT2. This rule supplements existing regulation with additional Crypto treatment requirements for higher risk systems. Labs who wish to analyze for Crypto (EPA method 1623) as part of LT2 will require approval from the EPA. Approval includes application, PTs, & on-site audit. Once approved, labs must pass 3 PTs every 4 months. An informational website with approval instructions is www.epa.gov/safewater/lt2/aprvlabs.

2 new coliform forms are soon to be approved for distribution. BSDW is waiting on a few more comments after which the new forms will be put on the water supply website. Any questions call Linda at 609-292-5550.

PWTA Update: John Shevlin stated the new database will be Beta tested by 8 labs on 2/27/06. A follow-up roundtable is tentatively scheduled for either 3/14 or 3/17. The tentative agenda for the AM includes a database overview, E2 Lab System review, on-line submittal process review, a download of the E2 schema, and a download of the excel spreadsheet (which is very similar to the current spreadsheet). The afternoon agenda includes a discussion of the perchlorate rule and the new total coliform forms. The targeted completion date for the database is May 1st.

Steve Doughty of the BSDW will now lead the perchlorate rule from proposal to adoption. The targeted proposal date is late March with a 90 day comment period. Other methods (314.1) may be adopted as options to 314.0.

Mike Lordson (APL) asked about a 1st draw sample for Lead (i.e. no flushing). John Shevlin stated there is legislation pending which specify 1st draw. The current law specifies the sample must be representative of the groundwater.

Site Remediation/NJ Groundwater Quality Standards: Mary Anne Kuserk (NJDEP-BGWPA) reported that a FAQ section will be added to the department webpage regarding GWQS. Some topics covered:

Users can focus on contaminants of concern. If the compound is not a contaminant of concern, the PQL should not be an issue.

If the site contaminants are unknown, the PQLS stated in the GWQS need to be met.

A white paper has been distributed to the case managers and training sessions are scheduled.

Dave Speis (Accutest) stated he does not believe some of the Class 1 standards can be achieved, particularly the 2PPB standard for TBA. Gary Czock (NJDEP-SRP) requested a list of compounds that the labs feel cannot be achieved. Gary indicated the DEP could post

interim criteria to alter PQLs. Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) asked Carl Ambruster (STL) to lead a sub-committee to respond to Gary.

Debra Hammond (NJDEP-QWS&A) stated Surface Water permits list the RQLs. The PQLs listed in the GWQS may not apply.

Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-ODQ) reported that when the new Tech regs are published they are considering mandatory .pdf reports. He requested feedback from ELAC.

Greg Toffoli reported the programs will adopt the OQA suggestion regarding the elimination of method 418.1. The proposed new method is similar to the Massachusetts GC-FID method. The new proposed Soil Clean-up Criteria which are scheduled to be out soon will not include a risk-based number for TPH. The TPH number will be proposed after a health-based study is completed. (Harvey Klein requested the term total petroleum hydrocarbon not be used).

2005 Field Sampling Procedures Manual: Greg Toffoli stated questions regarding the manual and storm water sampling in particular should be addressed to William Lowrey (NJDEP-BEMSA)

New Business: Hexavalent Chromium: Rachel Werner stated that the OQA is evaluating NIST stability standards for hexavalent chromium. They are looking for volunteer labs for the study.

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: No discussion

There were not any other new issues. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on March 9, 2006 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

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